

# **STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

## **OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

### **Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report**

#### **Homicide in North Dakota, 2011**



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The term "homicide," for purposes of this report, includes the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter. Homicide refers to the "willful killing of one human being by another." It does not include attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides or deaths caused by gross negligence.

## **HOMICIDE IN 2011**

- In 2011, fifteen homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 683,932, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 2.2 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Ten of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Eleven of the victims were adults. "Adult" is defined as a person aged 18 or older. See Table 1 on page 2 for a summary of homicide incidents in 2011.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of six homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were six homicides in 2011 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 12.
- **Assailant Gender:** Eleven of the thirteen identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** All of the identified assailants were adults.
- While tribal law enforcement agencies and any other federal law enforcement entities in the state do not participate in the state UCR program, every effort is made to include all homicide incidents occurring within the state's borders.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Homicide Incidents**  
**North Dakota, 2011**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
1/28/2011 Minot **	19	F	26	M	Handgun	Girlfriend	Domestic Violence
1/28/2011 Minot **	38 22 13	F M M	26	M	Firearm	Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance	Other Circumstances
2/12/2011 Minot	1	M	32 20	M F	Personal Weapon	Child of Girlfriend Child	Domestic Violence
3/12/2011 Minot	48	M	32	M	Knife	Acquaintance	Argument
3/29/2011 Bismarck	75	M	47	M	Blunt Object & Cutting Instrument	Parent	Domestic Violence
4/16/2011 Lincoln	23	M	27	M	Knife	Friends	Argument
4/30/2011 Stutsman County	18	M	22 33	F M	Knife	Relationship Unknown Relationship Unknown	Unknown
5/21/2011 Fort Totten	6 9	M F	41	M	Knife	Child Child	Unknown Circumstances/ Domestic Violence
7/8/2011 Bismarck	56	M	52	M	Firearm	Police Officer	Killed in the Line of Duty
7/24/2011 Morton County	57	F	56	M	Firearm	Wife	Murder/Suicide Domestic Violence
8/30/2011 Belfield	39	F	41	M	Asphyxiation	Former Girlfriend	Argument/ Domestic Violence
9/11/2011 Fargo	28	M			Knife	Unknown	Argument

\*\* Both cases involve the same assailant.

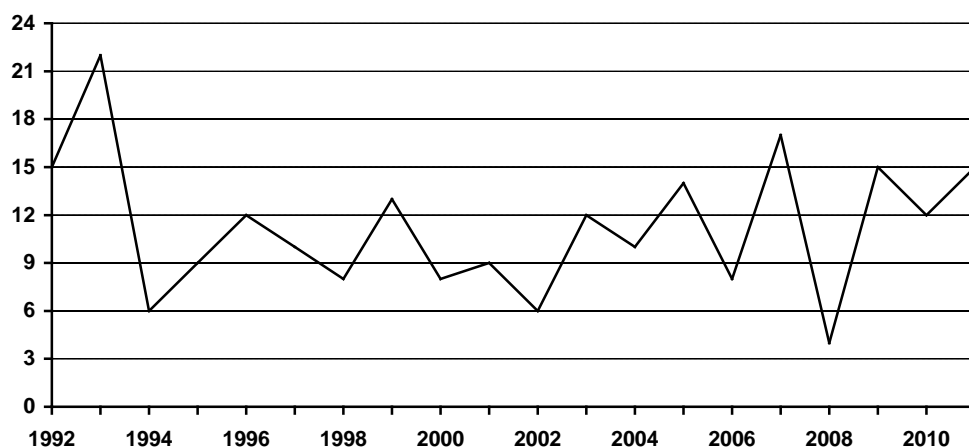
## **HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES**

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1992-2011.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

**Table 2**  
**Homicide Rate**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Homicide Total</b>	<b>Population Estimate</b>	<b>Rate/100,000 Population</b>
1992	15	636,000	2.4
1993	22	635,000	3.5
1994	6	638,000	0.9
1995	9	641,000	1.4
1996	12	644,000	1.9
1997	10	641,000	1.6
1998	8	638,000	1.3
1999	13	634,000	2.1
2000	8	642,200	1.2
2001	9	634,450	1.4
2002	6	634,110	0.9
2003	12	634,000	1.9
2004	10	634,500	1.6
2005	14	637,000	2.2
2006	8	636,000	1.3
2007	17	640,000	2.7
2008	4	641,500	0.6
2009	15	647,000	2.3
2010	12	672,591	1.6
2011	15	683,932	2.2

**Figure 1**  
**Homicide in North Dakota**  
**1992-2011**



## **VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER**

- Sixty percent of the 225 total homicide victims during the period 1992-2011 were male.

**Table 3**  
**Gender of Homicide Victims**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1992	10	5	15
1993	15	7	22
1994	2	4	6
1995	6	3	9
1996	6	6	12
1997	7	3	10
1998	6	2	8
1999	9	4	13
2000	4	4	8
2001	7	2	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	6	6	12
2004	7	3	10
2005	8	6	14
2006	4	4	8
2007	7	10	17
2008	3	1	4
2009	7	8	15
2010	8	4	12
2011	10	5	15
<b>Total 1992-2011</b>	<b>134    (60%)</b>	<b>91    (40%)</b>	<b>225</b>

## **VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE**

- Of the 225 homicides during the period 1992-2011, 81 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Thirty-seven percent of homicide victims were between the ages of 21 and 40. See Table 5 on the following page for information regarding age and gender of victims.

**Table 4  
Homicide Victims  
Juvenile and Adult  
North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
1992	3	12	15
1993	7	15	22
1994		6	6
1995	2	7	9
1996		12	12
1997		10	10
1998	2	6	8
1999	2	11	13
2000		8	8
2001		9	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	2	10	12
2004	3	7	10
2005	2	12	14
2006	2	6	8
2007	4	13	17
2008	2	2	4
2009	4	11	15
2010	1	11	12
2011	4	11	15
Total 1992-2011	42	183	225

**Table 5**  
**Homicide Victims**  
**By Age and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Less than 1 year	12	10	22
01-05	3	2	5
06-10	2	1	3
11-15	2	1	3
16-20	16	11	27
21-25	15	3	18
26-30	15	8	23
31-35	8	8	16
36-40	15	11	26
41-45	7	11	18
46-50	14	10	24
51-55	7	2	9
56-60	5	1	6
61-65	1	3	4
Over 65	12	9	21
Total 1992-2011	134	91	225



## **WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS**

- Forty-two percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1992-2011 resulted from firearm use. See Table 6 below.
- In homicides involving firearms, the weapon was more likely to be a long gun than a handgun.
- Thirty-eight of the 225 total homicide deaths involved the use of "personal weapons." Personal weapons include the use of hands, fists and feet as weapons.

**Table 6**  
**Weapons of Homicide**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Handgun</b>	<b>Other Firearm</b>	<b>Knife</b>	<b>Blunt Instrument</b>	<b>Personal Weapon</b>	<b>Other or Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
1992	2	6	4	2	1		15
1993	6	4	5	2	2	3	22
1994	1	2				3	6
1995	2	2	1	2		2	9
1996	3	4	4			1	12
1997		1	1	2	4	2	10
1998		3	2			3	8
1999	1	4	3	1		4	13
2000	2	1	2	1	2		8
2001	2	3	1	1	2		9
2002	1	1			2	2	6
2003	4	7			1		12
2004		5		1	1	3	10
2005	2	1	1	2	5	3	14
2006	1		4		2	1	8
2007	4		2	1	6	4	17
2008			2		2		4
2009	3	3	2	2	3	2	15
2010	2	5	1	1	3		12
2011	2	4	4	1	2	2	15
Total 1992-2011	38	56	39	19	38	35	225

- Firearms were used in 21 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-six percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-seven percent of homicides of males and 48 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Nineteen percent of homicides of males and 15 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

**Table 7**  
**Homicide Victims**  
**By Weapon and Age Category**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	2	36	38
Other Firearm	7	49	56
Knife		39	39
Blunt Instrument	1	18	19
Personal Weapon	17	21	38
Other or Unknown	15	20	35
Total 1992-2011	42	183	225

**Table 8**  
**Homicide Victims**  
**By Weapon and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	23	15	38
Other Firearm	27	29	56
Knife	25	14	39
Blunt Instrument	16	3	19
Personal Weapon	23	15	38
Other or Unknown	20	15	35
Total 1992-2011	134	91	225

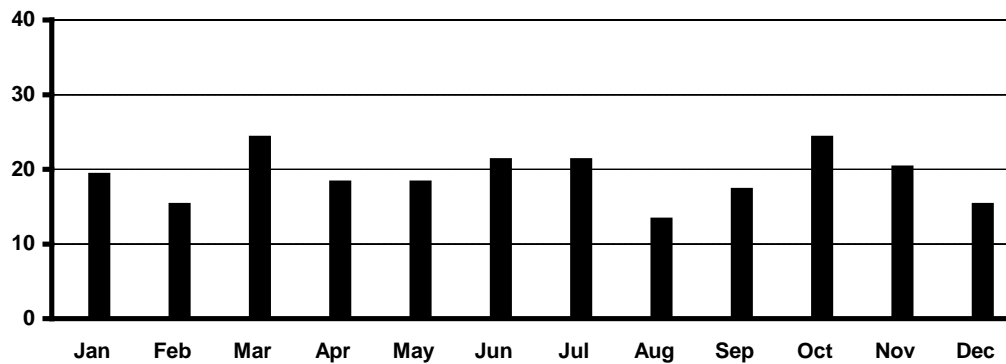
## **MONTH OF OCCURRENCE**

- During the period 1992-2011, the months of March and October had the highest number of homicide deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

**Table 9**  
**Deaths Due to Homicide**  
**By Month, 1992-2011**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Total Homicides</b>
January	19	8.4 %
February	15	6.7
March	24	10.7
April	18	8.0
May	18	8.0
June	21	9.3
July	21	9.3
August	13	5.8
September	17	7.6
October	24	10.7
November	20	8.9
December	15	6.7
Total 1992-2011	225	100.0

**Figure 2**  
**Homicides by Month of Occurrence**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS**

**For purposes of this report, domestic violence deaths include those involving a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, persons related by blood or marriage, persons in a present or former dating relationship, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time, other persons on premises when a domestic incident occurs, and romantic triangle situations.**

- For the period 1992-2011, 53 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10  
Domestic Violence Deaths  
North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>No Assailant Identified</b>	<b>Homicide Total</b>
1992	11	4		15
1993	11	11		22
1994	4	1	1	6
1995	3	6		9
1996	7	5		12
1997	2	8		10
1998	6	2		8
1999	7	6		13
2000	6	1	1	8
2001	2	7		9
2002	4	1	1	6
2003	8	4		12
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	7	1	14
2006	4	3	1	8
2007	7	9	1	17
2008		4		4
2009	12	3		15
2010	6	6		12
2011	7	7	1	15
Total 1992-2011	119	99	7	225

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Fifty-five percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 26 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-seven percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 37 percent of males.

**Table 11**  
**Domestic Violence Deaths**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>
Handgun		19	2	17
Other Firearm	6	32	1	17
Knife		19		19
Blunt Instrument	1	7		11
Personal Weapon	12	8	5	12
Other or Unknown	10	5	4	11
Total 1992-2011	29	90	12	87

**Table 12**  
**Domestic Violence Deaths**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Handgun	6	13	17	2
Other Firearm	12	26	15	3
Knife	11	8	13	6
Blunt Instrument	5	3	11	
Personal Weapon	7	13	16	1
Other or Unknown	8	7	8	7
Total 1992-2011	49	70	80	19

## **CLEARANCE RATES**

- Cases may be "cleared by arrest" of an assailant, or "cleared exceptionally," if a physical arrest cannot be made for reasons beyond the control of law enforcement. An example of an exceptional clearance would be a case in which the assailant committed suicide after killing someone.
- "Clearances" should not be interpreted as "convictions." The information regarding clearances, collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, reflects law enforcement activity. If an arrest is made, the UCR program considers the case cleared. UCR data does not reflect the results of prosecution of assailants.
- The average clearance rate for homicides in North Dakota during the period from 1992 to 2011 is 96 percent.

**Table 13**  
**Clearance Rates for Homicides**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Cleared</b>	<b>Total Homicides</b>	<b>North Dakota Clearance Rate</b>	<b>National Clearance Rate*</b>
1992	15	15	100%	65%
1993	22	22	100	66
1994	5	6	83	64
1995	9	9	100	65
1996	12	12	100	67
1997	10	10	100	66
1998	8	8	100	69
1999	13	13	100	69
2000	7	8	88	63
2001	9	9	100	63
2002	5	6	83	64
2003	12	12	100	62
2004	10	10	100	63
2005	12	14	86	62
2006	7	8	88	61
2007	16	17	94	61
2008	4	4	100	64
2009	15	15	100	67
2010	12	12	100	65
2011	14	15	93	Not Available

\* Clearance rates reported in annual Crime in the United States reports published by the FBI.

## **IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER**

- During the period 1992-2011, 88 percent of the 234 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Seven homicides during 1992-2011 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

**Table 14**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**By Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1992	11	3	14
1993	17	3	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	19		19
1996	13	2	15
1997	8	1	9
1998	5	3	8
1999	9	2	11
2000	7	1	8 *
2001	11		11
2002	5		5 *
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	13	1	14 *
2006	6	1	7 *
2007	14	3	17 *
2008	6	1	7
2009	15	2	17
2010	11	1	12
2011	10	2	12 *
Total 1992-2011	206 (88%)	28 (12%)	234

\* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

- Ninety percent of the total 234 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 234 assailants identified by law enforcement, 65 percent were between the ages of 16 and 35. See Table 16 on the following page for information on age and gender of identified assailants.

**Table 15**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**Juvenile and Adult**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
1992	2	12	14
1993	3	17	20
1994		5	5 *
1995	13	6	19
1996	1	14	15
1997		9	9
1998	1	7	8
1999		11	11
2000		8	8 *
2001		11	11
2002		5	5 *
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		14	14 *
2006		7	7 *
2007	3	14	17 *
2008		7	7
2009		17	17
2010		12	12
2011		12	12 *
<b>Total 1992-2011</b>	<b>23    (10%)</b>	<b>211    (90%)</b>	<b>234</b>

\* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.



**Table 16**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**By Age and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	11	2	13
16-20	38	5	43
21-25	46	6	52
26-30	30	4	34
31-35	20	3	23
36-40	15	3	18
41-45	14	3	17
46-50	10	1	11
51-55	5	1	6
56-60	8		8
61-65	3		3
Over 65	6		6
Total 1992-2011	206	28	234

## **WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS**

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.

**Table 17**  
**Identified Assailants**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	1	37	38
Other Firearm	10	42	52
Knife	3	46	49
Blunt Instrument	3	20	23
Personal Weapon	4	38	42
Other or Unknown	2	28	30
Total 1992-2011	23	211	234

**Table 18**  
**Identified Assailants**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	37	1	38
Other Firearm	49	3	52
Knife	38	11	49
Blunt Instrument	23		23
Personal Weapon	37	5	42
Other or Unknown	22	8	30
Total 1992-2011	206	28	234

- Fifty percent of assailants identified by law enforcement were involved in domestic violence incidents. See Table 19 below.
- Assailants were more likely to use firearms in domestic incidents than in non-domestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-nine percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 46 percent for males. See Table 22.

**Table 19**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Total</b>
1992	8	6	14
1993	8	12	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	4	15	19
1996	7	8	15
1997	2	7	9
1998	6	2	8
1999	6	5	11
2000	6	2	8 *
2001	2	9	11
2002	4	1	5 *
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	7	14 *
2006	4	3	7 *
2007	9	8	17 *
2008		7	7
2009	14	3	17
2010	6	6	12
2011	7	5	12 *
<b>Total 1992-2011</b>	<b>116 (50%)</b>	<b>118 (50%)</b>	<b>234</b>

\* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

**Table 20**  
**Weapon Use by Identified Assailants**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	21	17	38
Other Firearm	30	22	52
Knife	19	30	49
Blunt Instrument	8	15	23
Personal Weapon	22	20	42
Other or Unknown	16	14	30
Total 1992-2011	116	118	234

**Table 21**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>
Handgun		21	1	16
Other Firearm	1	29	9	13
Knife	2	17	1	29
Blunt Instrument		8	3	12
Personal Weapon	2	20	2	18
Other or Unknown	1	15	1	13
Total 1992-2011	6	110	17	101

**Table 22**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant**  
**North Dakota, 1992-2011**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Handgun	20	1	17	
Other Firearm	27	3	22	
Knife	11	8	27	3
Blunt Instrument	8		15	
Personal Weapon	18	4	19	1
Other or Unknown	10	6	12	2
Total 1992-2011	94	22	112	6